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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to submit herewith a joint letter from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Georgia addressed to you, together with its enclosure.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its enclosures circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the
United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Georgia addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Declaration on the Further Intensification of Strategic Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia, signed by the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Georgia in Baku on 18 February 1997 (see enclosure).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Azerbaijan

(Signed) Irakly MENAGARISHVILI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Georgia

Enclosure

Declaration on the Further Strengthening of Strategic Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia

Azerbaijan and Georgia,

Guided by the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Strengthening of Mutual Security of 8 March 1996, which gave a new dimension to cooperation between the two friendly States,

On the basis of the principles and purposes contained in the Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region of 8 March 1996 and the declaration entitled "For Inter-ethnic Accord, Peace and Economic and Cultural Cooperation in the Caucasus" of 3 June 1996,

Emphasizing the importance of uniting efforts to ensure peace, stability and the security of the States of the region,

Desirous of comprehensively intensifying strategic cooperation,

Emphasizing the priority that attaches to implementing specific measures to establish mechanisms that will facilitate the attainment of the practical objectives of building a democratic State ruled by law, based on political pluralism, the market economy, supremacy of the law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Confirming their adherence to the universally accepted principles of international law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a New Europe and other fundamental documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),

Declare that:

1. The parties are convinced that the development and intensification of friendly relations between the two States opens up new opportunities for the attainment of a higher level of cooperation based on the principles of equality, good neighbourliness, independence, mutual advantage and respect for one another's sovereignty;

2. The parties will cooperate in the processes of integration into the European political and economic structures, taking their national interests into account. The integration of Azerbaijan and Georgia, which are an integral part of Europe, into the European institutions will create broad opportunities for resolving political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems on the basis of universally accepted European standards;

3. The parties acknowledge that consistent observance of the principles contained in the fundamental documents of the United Nations, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Union and other international organizations is an

important factor in strengthening security and building confidence in Europe and in ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. The parties consider that speedy peaceful settlement of armed conflicts is a vitally important condition for strengthening the atmosphere of confidence and security in Europe and preventing the threat of new sources of conflicts emerging;

5. The parties highly appreciate the documents of the Lisbon Summit of OSCE and express the firm conviction that settlement of the armed conflicts in the region on the basis of the principles these documents contain will afford a reliable guarantee of the attainment of peace, stability and confidence;

6. The parties will continue to promote the development of cooperation between the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the basis of the universally accepted principles and norms of international law, and in accordance with their legislation and national interests, in the belief that it should facilitate the strengthening of the independence and sovereignty and the economic development of the countries of the Commonwealth;

7. The parties will assist in all possible ways in the development of trade and economic cooperation between the countries of the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Mediterranean basins;

8. The parties are convinced that respect for the principles of State sovereignty, equality of rights, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes, and for the other universally accepted norms of international law, is a guarantee of peace and security in the European region;

9. The parties condemn acts of aggression, aggressive separatism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations which are aimed at destroying human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threaten the territorial integrity and security of States, destabilize lawfully constituted Governments and undermine pluralistic civil society;

10. Expressing satisfaction at the results of their bilateral trade and economic cooperation, the parties consider it a priority task to implement measures to intensify these processes;

11. On the basis of the bilateral and multilateral treaty instruments signed in recent years, and taking into account the development and intensification of trade and economic relations and also the existence of cooperative links in the past, the parties have reached the conclusion that there is a need to promote in every possible way cooperation in such areas as transport, communications, energy supply, engineering, agriculture, in science and technology and military technology, the environment, humanitarian assistance, tourism, physical culture and sports.

The parties will focus particular attention on speeding up practical measures for the establishment and operation of a European-Asian transport

corridor, regarding this project of global significance as a vital factor in the all-round development of the two countries and of the region as a whole.

The parties will attach priority significance to the expansion of cooperation between their financial institutions, and to the harmonization of legislation in the spheres of the economy, finance, credit and banking, customs arrangements, investments and communications.

For these purposes, the Governments, ministries and departments of the two countries will develop appropriate programmes for the intensification of cooperation in these fields and engage in concrete measures for their implementation;

12. The parties regard bilateral partnership relations between towns, districts, enterprises and institutions as an important component of the cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia;

13. On the basis of the desire of the two fraternal peoples to maintain and strengthen their traditionally close links of friendship, and confirming their adherence to respect for and application of universally acknowledged human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, the parties are resolved to promote development of the distinct identity of Azerbaijanis living in Georgia and Georgians living in Azerbaijan, and also to guarantee their right to enjoy their cultural heritage, practise their religion and perform religious rites, and use their language freely in private life and in public;

14. The parties will promote the development of interparliamentary links, as well as the exchange of experience in legislative activity and the establishment and operation of democratic institutions;

15. The parties will engage in regular exchange of experience and information on the conduct of the reforms implemented in their countries in various spheres of life.

DONE at Baku on 18 February 1997 in the Azerbaijani, Georgian and Russian languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

(Signed) Heydar ALIYEV
President of Azerbaijan

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE
President of Georgia